

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 STR-04 OPIC-03 TRSE-00

OMB-01 AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 /064 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2418

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EINV, TW, CH, US

SUBJECT: US-ROC ECONOMIC COUNCIL

REF: 76 STATE 301134#

1. EVERITT A. "NICK" CARTER, CHAIRMAN OF OAK INDUSTRIES, INC. AND CHAIRMAN OF US-ROC ECONOMIC COUNCIL, BRIEFED AMBASSADOR JANUARY 27 ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AFFECTING COUNCIL. CARTER WAS ACCOMPANIED BY EUGENE M. KEYS, VICE PRESIDENT OF OAK INDUSTRIES, INC. KEYS HAS BEEN SERVING AS ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF COUNCIL AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO UNTIL MARCH 1977, WHEN WILLIAM MORRELL ASSUMES DUTIES OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. MORRELL WILL ESTABLISH OFFICE IN CHICAGO AREA. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT PERMANENT STAFF EVENTUALLY WILL NUMBER 6-8 PERSONS.

2. ACCORDING TO CARTER, COUNCIL NOW NUMBERS APPROXIMATELY 100 MEMBERS, INCLUDING A NUMBER OF COMPANIES "IN THE FORTUNE 500 LIST." SINCE APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP ARE BEING RECEIVED AT THE RATE OF 5 TO 10 A WEEK, IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT BY JUNE 1977 MEMBERSHIP WILL NUMBER AT LEAST 200.

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3. CARTER STATED THAT HE HAD BEEN INFORMED BY MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS Y.S. SUN THAT ROC COUNTERPART TO US-ROC COUNCIL WILL BE ORGANIZED IN FEBRUARY 1977. GROC ASSISTANCE WILL BE LIMITED TO PROVIDING STAFF SUPPORT FROM BUREAU OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OF MINISTRY UNTIL ROC ORGANIZATION IS ESTABLISHED AND HAS OWN STAFF. SUN HAS ASKED SEVERAL PROMINENT

ROC BUSINESSMEN WITH EXTENSIVE TRADE AND/OR INVESTMENT TIES TO U.S. TO SERVE ON ORGANIZING COMMITTEE. AMONG THEM ARE T.S. LIN, CHAIRMAN OF TATUNG CO.; JEFFREY L.S. KOO, PRESIDENT OF CHINA INVESTMENT AND TRUST COMPANY, LTD.; AND Y.Z. HSU, CHAIRMAN OF FAR EASTERN TEXTILE LTD.

4. CARTER EMPHASIZED THAT US-ROC ECONOMIC COUNCIL WILL BE COMPLETELY APOLITICAL. ITS ACTIVITIES WILL BE LIMITED TO PROMOTING TRADE AND INVESTMENT BETWEEN U.S. AND ROC AND TO WORKING WITH ROC COUNTERPART ORGANIZATION IN OVERCOMING OBSTACLES TO SUCH TRADE AND INVESTMENT. CARTER IS HOPEFUL THAT FIRST JOINT MEETING CAN BE HELD LATE IN 1977 IN U.S. HIS PRELIMINARY THINKING IS THAT SESSION WOULD FOCUS ON SUCH MATTERS AS THE ROC INVESTMENT CLIMATE, QUALITY CONTROL IN INDUSTRY, BARRIERS TO EXPANDING TRADE BETWEEN THE U.S. AND ROC, AND PROBLEMS OF TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER. SEMINAR FORMAT WOULD BE USED, WITH ASSIGNED SPEAKERS, PANEL DISCUSSIONS, ETC. REPRESENTATIVES FROM BOTH GOVERNMENTS COULD BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE AS EXPERTS ON THE SUBJECT MATTER TO BE DISCUSSED. CARTER IS CONVINCED THAT IF COUNCIL DEVELOPS THE WAY HE ENVISAGES IT CAN PERFORM A VALUABLE SERVICE TO THE BUSINESS COMMUNITIES OF BOTH COUNTRIES AND THE DANGER THAT IT COULD BECOME ENMESHED IN POLITICAL QUESTIONS WOULD BE ELIMINATED. MANY COMPANIES WHICH HAVE BEEN UNWILLING TO JOIN COUNCIL BECAUSE OF FEAR OF ANTAGONIZING PRC WOULD HAVE LESS REASON TO DECLINE MEMBERSHIP.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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